

March 13, 2012
Labor and Public Employees Committee
In Support of S.B. 352

My name is Susan Leary, I am a home daycare provider from Meriden, CT and I'm writing in support of S.B.352. I have been a home daycare provider since March of 1988. The work I do is very important to my family and to my parents who count on me to take care of their children every day, and help prepare them before entering the school system. The economy is a burden on me and my family, because I have to keep the parents fees low and affordable, and the state has not raised their rates in years. So what I do is important to me, the parents and the state. My biggest challenge being a provider is getting paid, and providing suitable materials for the children that I take care of each day.

There are ways collective bargaining can help the providers and parents by speeding up the reimbursement process, and increase the amount of payment. In addition, reduce the amount of time it takes to approve the parent's application. Because the risk is too high for the providers to take the child before they are approved. If the approval process can be reduced or provide a preliminary letter of acceptance, it will help both providers and parents. One way to improve this process is to use the current technology to email or direct fax to the care 4 kids counselors the payment form and the parent application information. I myself have turned down care 4 kids parents due to the fact that it takes so long to get payments and approval for child care. Parents cannot pay a provider for six weeks while waiting for state approval. That is the main reason parents try to get help from the state for child care.

Susan Leary
Meriden, CT